

Walker Forge Mansion  
NEAR Mays Landing, Atlantic County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Walker Forge Mansion  
NEAR Mays Landing, Atlantic County, New Jersey

Owner: Twin Lake Holding Company

Date of Erection: About 1820

Architect:

Builder: L. M. Walker

Present Condition: Poor

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - stone

Interior walls - plaster  
on lath

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch, wood  
shingles

Historical Data:

The old forge, which has since disappeared, and the Manor House were erected in 1820 or 1821 by Lewis M. Walker. The settlement was known as Monroe or Walker's Forge taking its name from the builder or from James Monroe.

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Very little is known about Walker's life - beyond the statement on his tombstone - "Born in Oley Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, August 16, 1791. Came to New Jersey in 1811." In 1821 he married Charlotte W. Pennington, the granddaughter of Colonel Richard Wescott and niece of William S. Pennington, Governor of New Jersey from 1813 to 1815. Colonel Wescott was, in his day, a man famous in the Little Egg Harbor and Mays Landing section.

Just when Walker took up his residence at Weymouth and became manager of the iron works there is not clear. It was prior to 1818, however; for in that year we read that he was elected Gloucester County Freeholder from Hamilton Township. From that time until his death in 1853, Walker was active in the affairs of old Gloucester County. We know that in 1822 he was coroner. When Atlantic County was first founded in 1837, Walker was its first representative in the State Legislature Council and in 1841 he was commissioned Lay Judge of Atlantic County. He served as member of the State Senate for the term 1848-'50.

About 1820 Walker started to acquire the lands and buildings that has ever since been known as Walker's Forge on South River. Over a period of years from 1820 to 1836 Walker purchased land until his holdings amounted to 9,800 acres.

Walker built a forge, a small village where a hundred or so workmen lived, and also erected a store. He also built the Manor House of the survey for himself and family. The forge, village, school, store, and a mill which was connected with this store and which may have been built by Walker or earlier by

Colonel Richard Wescott, have all disappeared; the old Manor House, however, still stands. The house was built for a large family. There is a hall running from the front to the back with four large square rooms opening out on the sides. On the second floor there are seven bedrooms. All of the downstairs rooms and three of the seven bedrooms have fireplaces.

The house remained in the Walker family until Lewis Walker's grandson, J. P. Walker, sold it with nine hundred acres of land to a hunting club. It has since become the property of a real estate development company.

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Material collected by Mrs. Alberta H.  
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